

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Washington, D.C. 20503

March 9, 2005

## Dear Colleague:

I am pleased to invite you and members of your staff to attend one of four Student Drug Testing Regional Summits. Because of its success in the schools that have tried it, more and more schools are adding random student drug testing to their existing drug prevention programs. Random student drug testing is effective because it demonstrates that the school and community have set a serious standard for their youth. In addition to creating a culture of disapproval toward drugs in the communities where it is employed, random student drug testing also achieves three public health goals: 1) it deters children from initiating drug use; 2) it identifies children who have just started using drugs so that parents and counselors can intervene early; and, 3) it helps identify children who have a dependency on drugs so that they can be referred to effective drug treatment. Student drug test results can only be used confidentially to help students, not to punish them. If you would like to learn more about random student drug testing, please plan to attend one of the upcoming summits. There will be no charge for admission.

The goal of the four summits is to inform community leaders and local school officials about student drug testing and promote discussion of this issue at the local level. Summit attendees will learn from national and regional experts in the field about current random student drug testing programs, research, technology, legal issues, and the importance of a student assistance program. The Department of Education grant program supporting random student drug testing efforts will also be discussed.

The dates and locations of the summits are as follows:

Dallas, TX
St. Louis, MO
Pittsburgh, PA
Portland, OR

To confirm your attendance and obtain additional information, please visit http://www.cmpinc.net/dts.

I hope that you will attend one of the regional summits to learn more about this valuable tool in reducing youth drug use. The progress we make at these summits can play a vital role in reducing drug use in our nation.

Sincerely,

John P. Walters

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Director